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REMARKS

The claims have been amended to define a narrowed genus of compounds consistent with the election provided herein in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that this narrowed genus is supported by the application as filed, including by the numerous specific examples set forth therein, and is of a reasonable scope to permit examination herein.

The claims have also been amended at certain locations to correct informalities therein, and to remove unnecessary language, without changing the meaning or scope thereof. Claims 7 and 8 have been reworded and their dependencies corrected, and new claims 54 and 55 have been added based on original claims 7 and 8. All such amendments are supported by the application as filed.

There being no issues of new matter, entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

At pages 2-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth a restriction requirement in eight (8) Groups and also an election of species requirement. In response thereto, Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I (claims 1-39, drawn to compounds of Formula I and their pharmaceutical compositions). As the elected species, Applicants hereby elect with traverse compound A1013 (page 70). Also important species are compounds A1014 (page 70) and A1002 (page 69). Applicants have amended the claims to define a narrowed generic concept inclusive of the elected species and believed to be of a reasonable scope to permit examination in one application. Examination of the claimed generic concept in one application is respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 27, 30 and 31, the Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that the compounds of formula (I) set forth in claim 1 may also be represented by the fused-ring forms depicted in claims 27, 30 and 31. That is, the structures of the type depicted in claims 27, 30 and 31 are readily converted into the corresponding formula (I) structure depicted in claim 1 and are believed to be in equilibrium with compounds of formula (I) depicted in claim 1 depending on the conditions. See the specification at page 8, lines 9-16. Therefore,

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Applicants respectfully submit that all such compounds are appropriately examined together in a single application.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that the withdrawn process of use claims commensurate in scope with allowed product claims will be rejoined in the examination following a finding that the products claims are allowable, under the USPTO's Rejoinder Practice (MPEP 821.04). The pending process of use claims 40-42 all depend from product claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requested rejoinder of such process claims if product claim 1 is hereafter found to be allowable.

An examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any points remain at issue which can best be resolved by way of a telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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